



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: April 7 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Stewart Ikeda, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Christine Noah, Steve Poltorzycki, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Nick Castellano

Absent: Tom Davison, Andrea Nicolay, Tom Formicola, Beth Locke

Guests: Cecily Miller, Jenny Raitt, James Fleming

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19

2) APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved.

3) ARTICLE 42: JAMES FLEMING

- Open Space Activities. Why can't we use the park for for-profit activities. The only thing we can use the park for is temporary, food related businesses, but no fitness. Current article would allow outdoor recreation, cultural arts and entertainment, both for and not for profit. So under the new article, you just need to approach parks and rec. ARB unanimously supported the article. And Joe Connelly said the Parks and Rec would always have the right to say yes or no. This article addresses everything in the open space districts. Some fall under the Select Board, some under the Conservation Commission and some under Parks and Rec. This article would maintain something ACAC has heard from artists and audiences that they appreciate and enjoy. So we would still need to schedule through Parks and Rec, but nothing in the zoning bylaw would prevent any use.
- Jenny says a conversation between ACAC and Joe about a good process for allowing arts and culture activities would be a good followup to this article if it passes.
- ACAC voted to officially support the passage of Article 42 at Town Meeting.

4) CHAIRS UPDATE: FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Presentation was successful. We presented the case of why we are deserving of going to pre-COVID levels, regaining the \$5,000 we lost so up to \$35K. Very few questions and they unanimously voted to allocate \$35,000.
- Al Tosti made the motion for the vote for 35K, and congratulated past and present ACAC leadership for our efforts.
- Let's be sure to invite them for our future events so they can see where their funding is going?
- We had great letters of support from RepHairations Business, Town manager, Select Board members, ArtsBoston ED, youth from the Climate project, and more.
- Supporters are listed on a slide in the presentation.
- Slide deck will be shared on the Google drive for the next meeting

5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Climate futures grant from MAPC has been expanded to allow us to create a mural, which expands on the Climate Markers and their work with the Green Teams. It will be about Native Plants and Pollinators. Maida said no. Beth Locke introduced us to Michelle Casey of 830 Mass Ave (Anderson Florist). Location across from the High School. Sophy Tuttle will work with middle and high school students. \$2500 fee for artist, \$1,000 for students, \$300 for website work related to the markers. (\$3,800 additional).
- Timeline for installation of the markers is the end of June.
- Eco week film. Will be shown on Tuesday, May 10, 7pm. Eco fest is now a few days, not a week. We are showing a Robin Frohart film at the Regent Theatre. The film is made with puppets that looks at trash and civilization. and have a talk back with Michelle Lougee and Robin Frohart. Persistence will be taken down and will be displayed as part of Porchfest on the Dallin Museum Lawn. We will leave it on exhibition till June 17 and have a special VIP sale. What is leftover, we will bring to the park the next day. Lidia has volunteered to be the ACAC spokesperson at the sale at Porchfest on June 18.
- Heights Spring Festival on May 21
- Haiku project from Arlington Heights is coming to Lexington
- Go Outdoors, Arlington and Medford exchanging doors.
- Tom Davison is producing Garage Band

6) JUNE 8 CHAMBER EVENT

- This could be a good time to celebrate the Cultural District Audio tour
- THe event would be at the Regent Theater
- Have a moment with Ed Gordon, primary voice of the tour
- We can program with Live Arts in the Parklet
- We would be a business sponsor
- We think it would be more effective to stay at the Regent and shmooze, show a video about our work - the one we are preparing for town meeting - rather than to lead people on a tour outside.
- Maybe we can also celebrate the mural on the Anderson Florist building.
- We are making a sizzle movie for town meeting that we can also use for this event, especially with an added focus on events that businesses that have participated, collaborated or sponsored with us - Haiku, Garage Band, Anderson Florist Mural, Rephairations and Chanel Threvil residency, film at the Regent, etc.

7) FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Working on an appeal to businesses that could be a one pager for the Chamber event.
- The benefits of participating with us.
- We received a \$1500 MCC Festivals grant for the Spring Heights Festival.

8) GRANTS COMMITTEE

- Stewart and Steve visited the Grants Committee last mon
- Getting new members
- We are still pausing on having an in-person reception, waiting to see how the Covid landscape evolves
- Prepping the yearly survey about programming to public. Trying to keep questions more consistent so we can get more meaning year over year data.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- We will talk about Garage Band and who needs to be involved at the May meeting or for the end of April Community Engagement meeting. Valuable to get cross fertilization we get in the larger meetings.
- Stewart has been thinking about the effort Bob Sprague has made to showcase the arts in Arlington. How could we recognize quality contributions to the arts.
- Cristin suggests we start practicing appreciations at our events, begin small and ramp up to an award. Perhaps it would be something like a contributor of the month. We should highlight a variety of kinds of contributions.
- Cecily suggests we find a fun, creative way to recognize people. Give them something creative..

- We had a severe website hack and Terry and Alison fixed it, but it was a huge challenge. Another good reason to get off Go Daddy.
- We profiled one of our Commissioners in the last newsletter. We need to put a face on us, and start sharing a little about ourselves and why we do what we do on the Commission. Might help with recruitment. Please send bios/statements and photos to Stewart! Maybe we will try to make it sparklier? A dialogue, or particular prompts...
- Chanel Thervil has had to withdraw from our project for health reasons. Jill Harvey and Cecily met with NEFA to see what their feeling was about moving forward with something. They were supportive and want to build on the work that Chanel was able to complete in whatever way we can. Jill would like to start with the group who has participated and talk about next steps with them. They are open to an event being a story sharing, or a gathering. It does not need to be a durable piece of art in public space.

Meeting adjourned 8:41pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: May 5, 7pm